DATENT

MAY 1:3 1997

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Case No. 91,875-J)

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RESPONSE TO THE OFFICIAL ACTION MAILED ON NOVEMBER 13, 1996

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed November 13, 1996, Applicants respectfully request that the application be re-examined in light of the following amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

In Claim 2, first line, please replace the word "composition" with --reagent--.

REMARKS

1. Status of the Claims

Claim 2, as amended, and Claims 1, 3-10, 26 and 31 are pending the application.

Applicants have amended Claim 2 consistent with the Examiner's suggestion, who is respectfully thanked therefor. Applicants have reviewed the language of Claim 1 and decline to amend this claim, believing that the wording would be understood by one having ordinary skill in